

## Statistics

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### Population (2003)

Alaska: 425,264 metro (0.18% of total U.S. metro)  
223,554 non-metro (0.45% of total U.S. non-metro)  
 648,818 total

United States: 241,395,996 metro  
49,413,781 non-metro  
 290,809,777 total

### Farm-Related Employment (2000)

Alaska: 74,188 jobs (19.4% of total Alaska employment)  
 United States: 25,834,574 jobs (15.6% of total U.S. employment)

### Number of Farms (2002)

Alaska: 609 (0.03% of total U.S. farms)  
 United States: 2,128,982

### Average Farm Size (2002)

Alaska: 1,479 acres  
 United States: 441 acres

### Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (2002)

Alaska: \$ 46.1 million  
 United States: \$200.6 billion

Rank among all States in market value of agricultural products sold (2002): #50

### Top 5 Agricultural Commodities (2002)

Commodity	Value of receipts (thousand \$)	Percent of U.S. value
Greenhouse/nursery	14,920	0.1

Dairy products	3,444	0.0
Hay	2,580	0.1
Potatoes	2,100	0.1
Cattle and calves	2,072	0.0

#### **Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers (2002)**

Alaska: \$829,000

United States: \$812.2 million

#### **Farmers Markets (2004)**

Alaska: 11

United States: 3,617

#### **Market Value of Certified Organic Commodities (2002)\***

Alaska: (NA)

United States: \$392.8 million

\*(Data may not reflect actual industry growth after Oct. 2002 implementation of USDA National Organic Program.)

#### **Certified Organic Acreage (2001)**

Alaska: 168 acres

United States: 2,343,857 acres

#### **USDA-Accredited Organic Certifying Agents (2005)**

Based in Alaska: 0

Total: 96

### **Marketing Products and Services**

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#### **Specific to Alaska**

##### **Identifying Transportation Barriers**

In November 2003, AMS submitted a report to Congress that describes barriers to efficient and competitive transportation of inputs and products by geographically disadvantaged farmers and

ranchers, including those in Alaska. The report discussed rural Alaska's dependence air transportation, location of airports, condition of runways, availability of cargo space on flights, assessment of ground and sea transportation and the effects these have on fresh seafood shipments to out-of-State markets. The report was titled *Report on Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers* (PDF), prepared for Congress by AMS in accordance with Section 10906 of the 2002 Farm Bill.

### **Support for Two Seafood Forums**

In March 2002, AMS partnered with World Trade Center Alaska to convene the first "Business of Seafood Forum," a 2-day conference that included participants from seafood production organizations, transportation services, cooperative extension, local and State government, producers, and processors. Topics included instruction and training in quality control, shipping and transportation, consumer demand, industry challenges, and competition.

AMS provided organizational and financial support for the second "Business of Seafood Forum" held in Anchorage in March 2003. The forum was designed to connect global leaders in food production and marketing with Alaskans to facilitate the development of alternate distribution models for locally produced fish and seafood products.

### **Assessing Need for a Fresh Seafood Distribution Center**

AMS supported a cooperative research agreement with World Trade Center Alaska to evaluate the need for a central seafood distribution facility in Anchorage, and to describe the distribution channels and methods for shipping fresh seafood from South Central Alaska to domestic and international markets. The resulting report, *A Fresh Seafood Distribution Center: An Assessment of Need* (PDF), concluded that a central distribution facility would likely have limited success at this time. The report also identified and made recommendations on how segments of the fresh seafood supply chain could be improved.

### **Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) Grants**

FSMIP provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

- In 2004, \$46,000 was awarded to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, to expand the use of farmers markets as a direct marketing outlet for Alaska growers.

### **Regional Interest**

#### **Alaska Ranchers Attend Conference**

In November 2005, the Northern Regional Successful Strategies for Farmers and Ranchers Conference, sponsored by USDA's Risk Management Agency, was held in Billings, MT. Livestock production and marketing, and agricultural risk management were highlighted at the conference. Individual workshops addressed alternative farm enterprises, organic and hydroponic farming practices, and other methods for small and medium-sized agricultural producers to remain economically viable in a rapidly changing market environment. Conference attendees included farmers, ranchers, Tribal leaders and members, community based organizations, and others from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as Alaska. AMS handed out literature on direct farm marketing practices, including copies of *Enhancing Commercial Food Service Sales by Small Meat Processing Firms* (PDF), a study developed by AMS in collaboration with Texas A&M University.

### **General Interest**

**New Farm-to-School Marketing Publication**

*Eat Smart—Farm Fresh! A Guide to Buying and Serving Locally-Grown Produce in School Meals* was published in December 2005 by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA. The publication, which helps school lunch programs find locally-grown produce, was developed by a multiagency task force that included an agricultural marketing specialist from AMS, four child nutrition specialists from FNS, and the Community Food Security Coalition, a non-profit organization.

**Farm-to-School Report**

*How Local Farmers and School Food Service Buyers Are Building Alliances* helps small farmers and school food service buyers explore how they might establish direct marketing linkages.

**Marketing via the Internet**

*How to Direct Market Farm Products on the Internet* is designed to help small/medium-sized agricultural producers better develop Internet-based sales transactions by recommending effective methods for reaching and retaining customers.

**Trends in Farmers Markets**

*U.S. Farmers Markets—2000: A Study of Emerging Trends* assesses the importance of farmers markets as a distribution channel for farm products, documents the recent growth in farmers markets operations, and provides an updated profile of management, operations, and merchandising at farmers markets.

**Market Research on Small Meat Processors**

*Enhancing Commercial Food Service Sales by Small Meat Processing Firms*, published by AMS in cooperation with Texas A&M University, determines potential areas of competitive advantage for smaller scale meat manufacturing firms in supplying local restaurants and other local commercial food service accounts.